

LBJ

12/7/15

## Freedom Assessment

- **Jackson**
  - Freedom rests on more political participation for the average white farmer → Use broad presidential power outside of war to accomplish this (Trail of Tears, Veto the Bank)
- **Lincoln**
  - Freedom rests on freedom to labor → Broadly define Presidential War Time Powers to accomplish this by ending slavery (Civil War & Emancipation Proclamation)
- **Radical Republicans**
  - Freedom rests on the possession of Civil Rights → Expand the authority of the National Government and Empower Congress with the ability to pass Civil Rights Legislation (Reconstruction Amendments)
- **Progressives**
  - Freedom rests on economic fairness → State and national governments need to promote laws that limit the power of corporations and promote the rights of workers
- **Franklin Roosevelt**
  - Freedom relies on economic security → Expand the national government and its powers to intervene in both the national economy and our personal economies to achieve macro and micro level economic security
- *In so doing, recast the idea of freedom by linking it to the expanding power of the nation-state*

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## Changing Federal Authority in the 1960s

- The 1960s represents the next wave of growth and expansion of federal authorities in modern US history.
- Made possible by the policies of two presidents:
  - John F. Kennedy
    - The New Frontier
  - Lyndon B. Johnson
    - The Great Society
      - Outlines a new philosophy on the role of government
      - Tremendous expansion in the size of the government




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## Lyndon Johnson

- 1908-1973
- From Texas
- Was a teacher prior to getting involved in politics
- First comes to office by way of succession, but runs on his own and wins election in 1964 by a significant margin over Barry Goldwater.
- One of only 4 people to be a Representative, Senator, VP, and President.
- Mixed presidential legacy: impressive civil and economic rights agenda contrasted with the Vietnam disaster.




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### Johnson's Great Society Program

- Package of domestic policies Johnson proposed between 1965 and 1968 to deal with a variety of social and economic problems facing the United States.
  - Civil Rights, Education, Poverty, Environmental Issues
- 435 bills pushed through Congress dealing with these problems!!
- LBJ able to do so much because:
  - "Landslide Lyndon": 1964 election swept Democrats into majority in both houses, enormous mandate for LBJ (61% pop. vote)
  - Kennedy legacy and assassination




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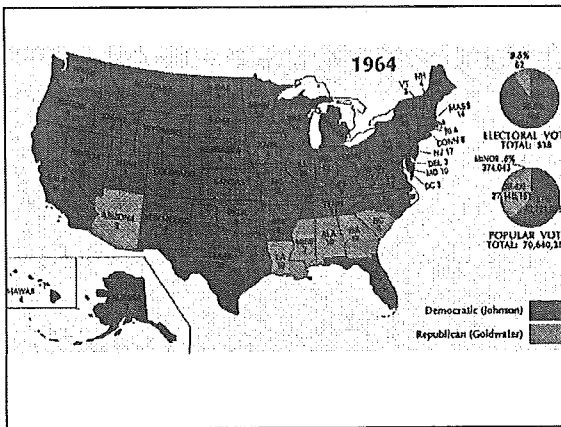
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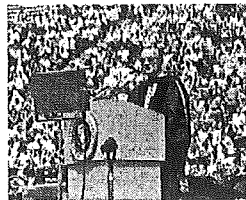
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### What is the Great Society?

- We will listen to & read a commencement address given by Johnson at the University of Michigan in which he outlines the goals of the Great Society.
- As you watch & read, take notes on the programs and goals Johnson outlines.




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### Legislative Accomplishments of the Great Society

- Take a look at a list of *some* of the legislative accomplishments Johnson achieved as part of the Great Society

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### Great Society Discussion

- What is the Great Society?
- What is the philosophy on the role of federal authority Johnson articulates through the Great Society?
- Is Johnson using federal authority to promote democracy?
- How does Johnson's view of federal authority/democracy compare with past eras?

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### Other Points to Add to Johnson's Philosophy of Government

- If these didn't come up, we should also note that...
- Johnson moves the government to one that reacts to social/economic problems to one that is proactive in dealing with social/economic problems
  - How can we stop the problems before they start?
    - Job Training, Head Start
- Redefines the definition of needy
  - Needy are not just the disabled and the aged, needy are also the poor (whether they work or not)
    - Medicaid, HUD and Rent Subsidies
- Broadens the definition of "citizen" – who the government is responsible to: blacks, women, immigrants, the poor – those who do not have a voice!

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